

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An optical fiber axial alignment method and related method, and
an optical fiber fusion splicing method and related device are
disclosed wherein a butt alignment section 9 has a butt alignment
groove portion 7 to allow at least one pair of optical fibers 3
to be positioned such that distal ends of optical fibers 3 mutually
but one another. Optical fiber guide sections 21 on both sides
10 of the butt alignment section 9 have guide grooves 23, whose centers
are positioned on substantially straight lines interconnecting
centers of at least one pair of opposing butt alignment groove
portions formed on the butt alignment section 9, and are able to
elevate above the butt alignment section 9. When fusion splicing
15 at least one pair of the optical fibers 3, the optical fiber guide
sections 21 are elevated above the butt alignment groove portions
7 to allow the optical guides 3 to be received in the guide grooves
23 whereupon the optical guide sections 21 are lowered to cause
the distal ends of the optical fibers 3 to be automatically received
20 in the butt alignment groove portions 7.